

LIBRARY OF THE
UNION
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.
NEW YORK.

COPY

Of the

SPEAKERS
LETTER

To the

VICE-CHANCELOUR

AND

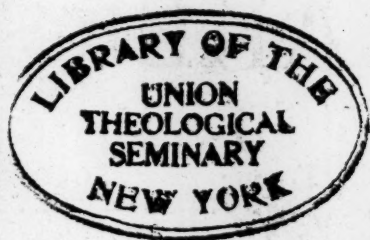
The Heads of Houses of the VNI-
VERSITY of *Oxford*, together with
the PROTESTATION
and DECLARATION
with it.

17, 1/2 x 12, 3/4 cm
(1), 14p.



OXFORD,

Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD,
Anno Dom. 1642.



NOV 20 1944

(I)



TO THE
VICE-CHANCELOVR,
and the
HEADS of HOUSES
of the Vniversity of
OXFORD.

M^r Vice-chauncellour,



*It is now some moneths
since that the Prote-
station taken by the
Lords and House of
Commons, was sent
downe into the Country
with an expectation that it should be gene-*

A 2

rally

(2)

rally taken throughout the Kingdome, for a Testimony of their good Concurrence with the Parliament. But through the remissnesse of some of those that had the care of recommending it to others, very many there be that have not hitherto taken it.

Now the House of Commons (having discovered many dangerous designs, plotted against the Parliament, and especially, that of the fourth of this instant January, which had it taken effect, would have stricken, not only at the Priviledges, but the very being of Parliaments, as will more appeare by the Declaration herewith sent unto you, which the House desires you to publish through all parts of the University of Oxford,) have thought fitt once againe to recommend the taking of this Protestation, and have therefore

fore commanded me in their name to desire you, and all, and every the Heads of Houses in the same University, to meet together in one place, as soone as possibly you may, and there to take the Protestation your selves, and then to call together all, and every the Masters, Schollars, and Servants of the same University, being of the age of 18. yeares or upwards, and tender unto them the Protestation, to bee taken in the presence of you, the said Mr Vice-chancelour, and the said Heads of Houses, and to take the names both of those that doe take, and doe refuse to take the same Protestation, and to returne them unto the Burgeses serving for that University, before the 20th day of February next, wherein the House desires your greatest care and diligence, as a matter ve-

(4)

*ry much importing the good, both of the
King and Kingdome, which being all I
have in Command, I rest*

8°. Febr. 1641.

Your very loving friend
William Lenthall
S P E A K E R.



Die



Die Mercurij: 5°. Maij. 1641.



IT is this day Ordered by the House of Commons now assembled in Parliament, That the Preamble, together with the Protestation, which the Members of this House made the third of May, shall be forthwith Printed, and the Copies Printed brought to the Clark of the said House, to attest under his hand, to the end that the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses may send them downe to the Sheriffes and Iustices of Peace of the severall Shires, and to the Citizens and Burgeses of the severall Cities, Boroughs, and Cinque Ports, respectively. And the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses, are to intimate unto the Shires, Cities, Boroughs, and Cinque Ports, with what willingnesse all the Members of this House made this Protestation: And further to signify, that as they justify the taking of it in themselves, so they cannot but approve it in all such as shall take it.



The Knights, Citizens, and Burgesſes of the Commons Houſe in Parliament, finding, to the great griefe of our hearts, that the deſignes of the Priests and Jeſuites, and other Adherents to the See of Rome, have of late been more boldly and frequently put in practice then formerly, to the undermining and danger of the ruine of the true reformed Protestant Religion in His Maieſties Dominions eſta- bliſhed: And finding alſo that there have been, and having juſt cauſe to ſuſpect that there ſtill are, even during this ſitting in Parliament, indeavours to ſubvert the fundamentall Lawes of England and Ireland, & to introduce the exerciſe of an Arbitrary and Tyrannicall Government, by moſt pernicious and wicked Councells, Practices, Plots, and Conſpiracies: And that the long intermiſſion, and unhappie breach of Parliaments, hath occaſioned many illegall Taxations, whereupon the ſubject hath been proſecuted and grieved: And that di- verſe Innovations and ſuperſtitious have been brought into the Church; multitudes driven out of His Maieſties Dominions, Jealouſies raiſed and fomented betwixt the King and His people, a Popiſh Army leyed in Ireland, and two Armies brought into the Bowells of this Kingdome, to the hazard of His Maieſties Royall Perſon, the conſumption of the Revenues of the Crowne, and Treas- ure of this Kingdome: And laſtly, finding great cauſe of Jealouſie, that indeavours have been, and are uſed to bring the Engliſh Army into a miſunderſtanding of this Parliament, thereby to incline that Army, with force to bring to paſſe thoſe wicked Councells, Have therefore thought good to ioine our ſelves in a Declaration of our united Affections and Reſolutions, and to make this enſuing Proteſtation.

I. A. B.



I A. B. doe in the presence of Almighty God, Promise, Vow, and Protest, to maintaine and defend, as farre as lawfully I may, with my life, power, and estate, the true Reformed Protestant Religion, expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England against all Popery and Popish Innovations within this Realme, contrary to the same Doctrine, and according to the duty of my Allegiance, His Majesties Royall Person, Honour, and Estate; As also the Power and Priviledges of Parliament; The lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and every person that maketh this Protestation, in whatsoever he shall doe in the lawfull pursuance of the same. And to my power, and as farre as lawfully I may, I will oppose, and by all good wayes and meanes indeavour to bring to condigne punishment, all such as shall either by Force, Practise, Councells, Plots, Conspiracies or otherwise, doe any thing to the contrary of anything in

B

this

this present Protestation contained. And further, that I shall in all just and Honourable wayes indeavour to preserve the Union and Peace between the three Kingdomes of England, Scotland, and Ireland; And neither for hope, feare, nor other respect, shall relinquish this Promise, Vow and Protestation.



Vhereas some doubts have been raised by severall persons out of this House, concerning the meaning of these words contained in the Protestation lately made by the Members of this House, (viz:) The true reformed Protestant Religion, expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England against all Popery and Popish Innovations within this Realme, contrary to the same doctrine; This House doth declare, That by those words, was and is meant, onely the publike Doctrine professed in the said Church, so farre as it is opposite to Popery and Popish Innovations; And that the said words are not to be extended to the maintaining of any forme of Worship, Discipline, or Government, nor of any Rites or Ceremonies of the said Church of England.

H. ELSYNG. Cler. PARL.

De Com.



A Declaration of the House of Commons, touching the late breach of their Priviledges; And for the Vindication thereof, and of divers members of the said House.



HEREAS the Chambers, Studies, and Trunks, of Master *Denzill Hollis*, Sir *Arthur Haslerigg*, Master *Iohn Pym*, Master *Iohn Hampden*, and Master *William Strode* Esquires, Members of the House of Commons, upon Munday the 3. of this instant January, by colour of His Majesties warrant have been sealed up by Sir *William Killigrew*, and Sir *William Flemen*, and others, which is not only against the Priviledge of Parliament, but the Common liberty of every Subject: Which said Members afterwards, the same day were under the like colour, by Serjeant *Francis*, one of His Majesties Serjeants at Arms, contrary to all former Presidents demanded of the Speaker, sitting in the House of Commons, to be delivered unto him, that he might Arrest them of high Treason. And whereas, afterwards the next day, His Majesty in His Royall Person, came to the same House attended with a great multitude of men armed in a

warlike manner, with Halberts. Swords, and Pistolls, who came up to the very door of the House, and placed themselves there, and in other places, and passages neer the said House, to the great terrour and disturbance of the Members then sitting; and according to their duty in a peaceable, and orderly manner, treating of the great affaires of *England* and *Ireland*. And His Majesty having placed himselfe in the Speakers Chair, demanded of them the Persons of the said Members to be delivered unto him, which is a high Breach of the Rights, and Priviledges of Parliament, and Inconsistent with the Liberties, and Freedom thereof. And whereas, afterwards His Majesty did issue forth severall Warrants to divers Officers, under His own hand, for the apprehension of the Persons of the said Members, which by Law he cannot doe; there being not all this time, any Legall charge or accusation, or due Proccesse of Law issued against them, nor any pretence of charge made known to that House; all which are against the Fundamentall Liberties of the Subject, and the Rights of Parliament. Whereupon we are necessitated, according to our duty, to declare; And we doe hereby declare, that if any Person shall Arrest *M. Hollis*, *Sir Arthur Haslerigg*, *M. Pym*, *M. Hampden*, and *M. Strode*, or any of them, or any other Member of Parliament, by pretence or colour of any Warrant issuing out from the King only, is guilty of the Breach of the Liberties of the Subject, and of the Priviledge of Parliament, and a publike enemy to the Common-wealth. And that the Arresting of the said Members, or any of them, or of any other Member of Parliament, by any Warrant whatsoever, without a legall Proceeding against them, and without consent of that House, whereof such Person is a Member, is against the liberty of the Subject, and a Breach of Priviledge of Parliament; And the Person which shall Arrest any of these Persons, or any other Member of the Parliament, is declared a publike enemy of the Common-wealth. Notwithstanding all which we think fit, further to declare that we are so farre from any endeavours to protect any

ny of our Members, that shall be in due manner prosecuted according to the Lawes of the Kingdom, and the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament for Treason, or any other misdemeanors, That none shall be more ready and willing then we our selves, to bring them to a speedy, and due tryall, being sensible that it equally imports us, as well to see Iustice done against them that are criminous, as to defend the just Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, and Parliament of *England*.

And whereas upon severall Examinations taken the seventh day of this instant *January*, before the Committee appointed by the House of Commons, to sit in *London*, it did fully appear, that many Souldiers, Papists, and others, to the number of about 500. came with His Majesty on Tuesday last, to the said House of Commons, armed with Swords, Pistolls, and other Weapons; and divers of them pressed to the door of the said House, thrust away the door Keepers, and placed themselves, between the said door, and the ordinary attendants of His Majesty; holding up their Swords, and some holding up their Pistolls ready cocked neer the said door; and saying, I am a good Marksman, I can hit right I warrant you, and they not suffering the said door, according to the custom of Parliament to be shut, but said they would have the door open, and if any opposition were against them, they made no question, but they should make their party good, and that they would maintain their party; and when severall Members of the House of Commons were coming into the House, their attendants desiring that Room might be made for them, some of the said Souldiers answered, A Pox of God confound them, and others said, A Pox take the house of Commons, let them come and be hanged, what a do is here with the House of Commons; and some of the said Souldiers did likewise violently assault, and by force disarm some of the Attendants, and servants of the Members of the House of Commons, waiting in the Room next the said House, and upon the Kings return out of the said House, many of them by wicked oaths, and otherwise, expressed

much discontent, that some Members of the 'said House', for whom they came were not there; and others of them said, when comes the word, and no word being given at His Majesties coming out, they cryed a lane, a lane; afterwards some of them being demanded, what they thought the said company intended to have done, answered, That questionlesse in the posture they were set, if the word had been given, they should have fallen upon the House of Commons, and have cut all their throats. Vpon all which we are of opinion, that it is sufficiently proved, that the coming of the said Souldiers, Papists, and others with His Majesty to the House of Commons on Tuesday last, being the fourth of this instant *January*, in the manner aforesaid, was to take away some of the Members of the said House; and if they should have found opposition, or deniall, then to have fallen upon the said House in a hostile manner. And we doe hereby declare that the same was a traitterous designe against the King and Parliament. And whereas the said *M. Hollis*, *Sir Arthur Haslerigg*, *M. Pym*, *M. Hampden*, and *M. Strode*, upon report of the coming of the said Souldiers, Papists, & others in the warlike and hostile manner, aforesaid, did with the approbation of the House absent themselves from the service of the House, for avoiding the great, and many inconveniences, which otherwise apparantly might have hapned: Since which time a printed paper in the form of a Proclamation, bearing date the sixth day of this instant *January*, hath issued out for the apprehending, and imprisoning of them, Therein suggesting that through the conscience of their own guilt, they were absent and fled, not willing to submit themselves to Iustice; We doe farther declare that the said printed paper is false, scandalous and illegall, and that notwithstanding the said printed paper, or any warrant issued out, or any other matter yet appearing against them, or any of them, they may and ought to attend the service of the said House of Commons, and the severall Committees now on foot. And that it is lawfull for all persons whatsoever to lodge, harbour or converse with

with them, or any of them; And whosoever shall be questioned for the same, shall be under the Protection and Priviledge of Parliament.

And we doe further declare, That the publishing of severall Articles purporting a form of a charge of high Treason against the Lord *Kimbolton*, one of the Members of the Lords House, and against the said, M. *Hollis*, Sir *Arthur Haslerigg*, M. *Pym*, M. *Hampden*, and M. *Strode*, by Sir *William Killigrew*, Sir *William Flemen*, and others in the Innes of Court, and elsewhere in the Kings Name, was a high Breach of the Priviledge of Parliament, a great scandal to His Majesty, and His Government: A seditious Act manifestly tending to the subversion of the Peace of the Kingdome, and an injury, and dishonour to the said Members, there being no legall charge or accusation against them.

That the Priviledges of Parliament, and the Liberties of the Subject so violated and broken, cannot be fully and sufficiently Vindicated, unlesse His Majesty will be graciously pleased, to discover the names of those Persons, who advised His Majesty to issue out Warrants, for the sealing of the Chambers, and Studies of the said Members, to send a Serjeant at Arms to the House of Commons, to demand their said Members, to issue out severall Warrants under His Majesties own hand, to apprehend the said Members. His Majesties coming thither, in His own Royall Person. The publishing of the said Articles, and printed paper in the form of a Proclamation against the said Members in such manner as is before declared; To the end that such Persons may receive condigne punishment.

And this House doth further declare, That all such persons as have given any Councell, or endeavoured to set or maintain division or dislike, between the King and Parliament, or have Lifted their names, or otherwise entred into any combination or agreement, to beayding or assisting to any such councell or endeavour, or have perswaded any other so to doe, or that shall doe any the things above mentioned, And shall not forthwith
dis.

(14)

discover the same to either House of Parliament, or the Speaker of either of the said Houses respectively, and disclaime it; are declared publike enemies of the State and Peace of this Kingdome, and shall be enquired of, and proceeded against accordingly.

Die Lunæ 17. Januarii. 1641.

It is this day ordered, by the Commons assembled in Parliament, that this Declaration shall be forthwith published in Print.

Hen. Elsing. Cler. Parl. De Com.

Library of the
UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
New York

